(b) the requirement of gas of these plants annually;

(c) whether the State Government had requested to the Union Government to ensure smooth gas supply to these plants at concessional rates and also bear the transport cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry of Power has taken up the matter with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL); and

(f) if so, the decision taken by GAIL in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The linkage of gas for power plants in Rajasthan is as under:

1. Anta	1.75 MCMD
2. Ramgarh	0.55 MCMD

(c) to (f) Oil India Limited (OIL) is supplying gas to Ramgarh power plant of Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) through Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). OIL is of the view that discount should not be applicable for gas supplied by OIL to RSEB and it is billing GAIL at producer's price of Rs. 1800 per 1000 SCUM adjusted for calorific value along with levies like Royalty and Sales Tax.

IDBI

184. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) proposed to finance power projects in Karnataka State:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the total amount required and the details of the projects to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Financial Institutions including IDBI have committed financial assistance to the following power projects in Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Promoters M/s	Capacity (MW)
1.	Toranagallu TPP	Jindal Tractabel	260
2.	Chunchankatte HEP	Graphite India Ltd.	15
3.	Raichur TPP	Karnataka Power Corpn.	420
4.	Subash Kabini Power Company Ltd.	Subash Projects & Marketing Ltd.	20

The total assistance committed by the Indian Financial Institutions to these four projects is about Rs. 1600 crores.

NTPC

185. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation propose to change its policy to supply the power to State Electricity Boards at market rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The tariff for the power stations of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is notified by the Government of India under Section 43(A) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. NTPC has approached the Government of India for enhancing the rate of return of its existing power stations from 12% to 16% and also enhancement of the incentive levels.

Task Force for Power Generation

186. DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a high-power task force to identify more power projects for extra 10,000 MW power generation during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the task force;

(c) whether any concrete proposals has been worked out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the power generation target for the Ninth Year Plan have been finally fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The Task Force has categorised projects sector-wise on the basis of their likelihood of completion in the Ninth Plan and identified specific steps required to ensure their speedy execution. Projects of a total of 52310.2 MW have been identified by the Task Force of which 11868.2 MW is in the State Sector, 14069 MW in the Central Sector and 26373 MW in the Private Sector. The summery of important recommendations made by the Task Force on capacity addition during the Ninth Plan are given as under:

(i) Project will be divided among specific officers in the CEA who will inter-act with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards regularly to ascertain the status of these projects. Adequate funds be made available to the CEA for this purpose.

(ii) Projects, where intervention at the Government level is required, will be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Power so that immediate corrective measures are taken.

(iii) Bi-monthly meetings will be taken by Chairman, CEA in which large projects would be reviewed in-depth in the presence of the representatives of the concerned CPSUs/State Governments.

(iv) Department of Atomic Energy (DoAE) will be requested of have an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure completion of projects during the Ninth Plan. DoAE may also be requested to identify additional projects on which advance action can be initiated so as to yield benefits during the Tenth Plan and beyond.

(v) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas may be requested to constitute a group with representatives from CEA and Ministry of Power to review all ongoing power projects of the refineries as well as wheeling of their surplus power.

(vi) Special attention needs to be given for projects in the State Sector which are lying incomplete for want of adequate resources. Consultations may be held with the State Governments to see whether such projects can be completed speedily.

(vii) CPSUs such as NTPC, NHPC, THDC, NJPC and NEEPCO need to have shelves of projects on which advance action can be initiated straightway so that benefits are available in the Tenth Plan.

(viii) The policy framework for encouraging co-generation needs to be modified to obtain maximum capacity addition from this source.

(d) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for power sector is under finalisation by Planning Commission.

Closing of Ongoing Projects

187. SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to close down some ongoing projects in the country under various Departments and Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount spent on them;

(c) if so, the extent to which they are incomplete;

(d) whether the Government propose to review these projects or implement any new projects in its place; and

(e) if so, the details of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) The Government has been reviewing the progress of implementation of ongoing projects from time to time. The projects which are making slow progress are reviewed by the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the government under the chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission.

(b) to (e) The Central Empowered Committee has recommended the following projects for closure/freezing of further expenditure. The final decision is yet to be taken by the Government.

	Name	Expenditure upto 31.03.1997 (Rs. in crores)
(i)	Koel Karo HEP	17.87
(ii)	Farakka STPP III, NTPC	0.00
(iii)	Kottur—Harihar New Railway Line	0.25
(iv)	Goleti Longwall projects	3.90

Herbs in Assam

188. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted with regard to availability of herbs in forests and hill areas of Assam: